## I CLAIM:

- 1 1. A de-hooking device for releasing fish that have been caught by a fishhook that is
- 2 connected to a fishing line, comprising:
- a handle member adapted to be grasped by the hand of a user;
- 4 an integral de-hooking element extending from said handle member and having an
- 5 elongate shank section of substantially straight configuration defining an operating end; said
- 6 operating end having a tightly bent loop of U-shaped configuration and a substantially straight
- 7 end section disposed in spaced relation with said elongate shank section and defining an elongate
- 8 narrow gap therewith; and
- 9 a terminal section extending from said substantially straight end section and being
- oriented in outwardly diverging relation with said elongate shank section.
  - 1 2. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:
- 2 said integral de-hooking element being composed of metal and having an annular cross-
- 3 sectional configuration.
- 1 3. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:
- 2 said terminal section being of substantially straight configuration and having a bend with
- said substantially straight end section and being oriented by the bend to obtuse angular relation
- 4 with said substantially straight end section.
- 1 4. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:
- 2 said integral de-hooking element being pivotally connected with said handle member and
- 3 being moveable from a closed position where said integral de-hooking element lies along said

- 4 handle member and an open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially
- 5 aligned with said handle member.

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- 1 5. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:
- 2 said handle member defining a handle length and defining an elongate slot extending
- 3 substantially along said handle length, said handle member further defining a pivot receptacle
- 4 being oriented in substantially normal relation with said elongate slot;
- 5 a pivot end being defined by said elongate substantially straight shank of said integral de-
- 6 hooking element and being located for pivotal movement within said elongate slot of said handle
- 7 member, said pivot end defining a pivot opening; and
- 8 a pivot element extending through said pivot receptacle and said pivot opening and
- 9 securing said integral de-hooking element in pivotal relation with said handle member and
- 10 permitting pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a
- substantial portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a
- 12 full open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is
- 13 substantially aligned with said handle member.
- 1 6. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:
- 2 said handle member being of integral construction.
- 1 7. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:
- 2 said handle member having a pair of scales being disposed in spaced relation with said
- 3 elongate slot located therebetween.

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- 8. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:
- a plurality of ridges and depressions being defined by said handle member enabling
- 3 efficient and secure gripping of said handle member by the hand of a user.
- 1 9. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:
- 2 said pivot end being defined by a substantially circular pivot end portion of said integral
- 3 de-hooking element having frictional engagement with surfaces of said elongate slot and
- 4 resisting free pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element relative to said elongate
- 5 handle member.

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- 1 10. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:
- 2 said de-hooking device being buoyant in water.
- 1 11. A de-hooking device for releasing fish that have been caught by a fishhook that is
- 2 connected to a fishing line, comprising:
- a handle member adapted to be grasped by the hand of a user and defining an elongate
- 4 storage slot;
- 5 an integral de-hooking element being in pivotal connection with said handle member and
- 6 pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a substantial
- 7 portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a full open
- 8 position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is
- 9 substantially aligned with said handle member, said integral de-hooking element having an
- 10 elongate shank section of substantially straight configuration defining an operating end; said
- operating end having a tightly bent loop of U-shaped configuration and a substantially straight

- end section disposed in spaced relation with said elongate shank section and defining an elongate
- 13 narrow gap therewith; and

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- a terminal section extending from said substantially straight end section and being
- oriented in outwardly diverging relation with said elongate shank section.
- 1 12. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said integral de-hooking element being composed of metal and having an annular cross-
- 3 sectional configuration.
- 1 13. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said terminal section being of substantially straight configuration and having a bend with
- 3 said substantially straight end section and being oriented by the bend to obtuse angular relation
- 4 with said substantially straight end section.
- 1 14. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said handle member defining a pivot receptacle being oriented in substantially normal
- 3 relation with said elongate slot;
- 4 a pivot end being defined by said elongate substantially straight shank of said integral de-
- 5 hooking element and being located for pivotal movement within said elongate slot of said handle
- 6 member, said pivot end defining a pivot opening; and
- a pivot element extending through said pivot receptacle and said pivot opening and
- 8 securing said integral de-hooking element in pivotal relation with said handle member and
- 9 permitting pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a
- substantial portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a

- 11 full open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is
- substantially aligned with said handle member.

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- 1 15. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said handle member being of integral construction.
- 1 16. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- said handle member having a pair of scales being disposed in spaced relation with said
- 3 elongate slot located therebetween.
- 1 17. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- a plurality of ridges and depressions being defined by said handle member enabling
- 3 efficient and secure gripping of said handle member by the hand of a user.
- 1 18. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said pivot end being defined by a substantially circular pivot end portion of said integral
- 3 de-hooking element having frictional engagement with surfaces of said elongate slot and
- 4 resisting free pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element relative to said elongate
- 5 handle member.
- 1 19. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:
- 2 said de-hooking device being buoyant in water.